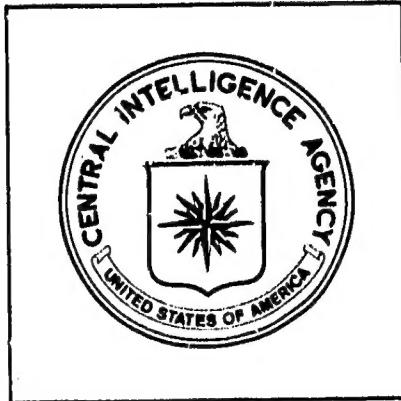


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STAFF NOTES:

Military Developments

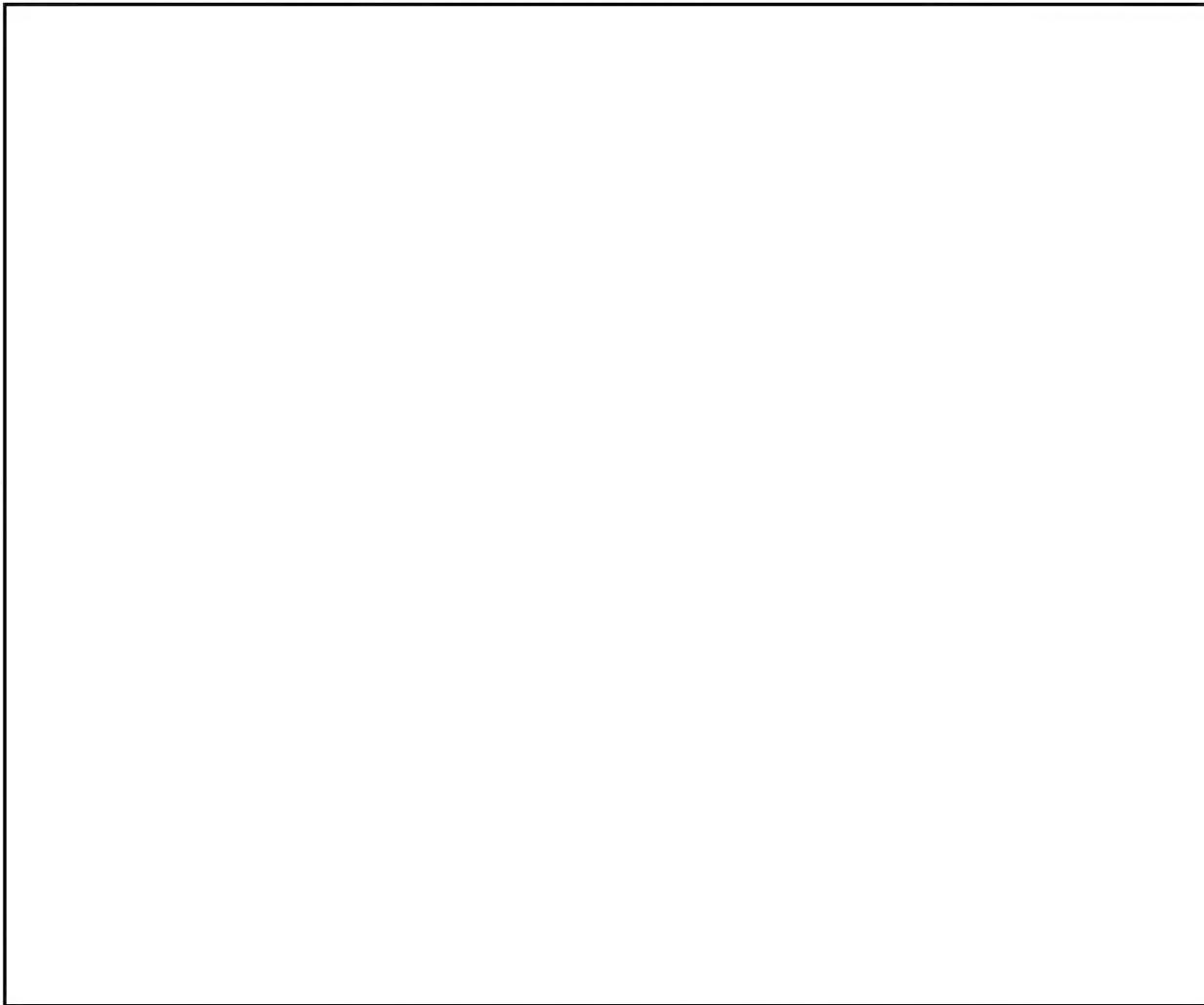
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SWEDEN: Viggen Interceptor Crash May Delay Program

Sweden's program to develop a new Viggen interceptor suffered a setback Wednesday when a Saab JA-37 prototype crashed.

There apparently were only four prototypes of the JA-37 in existence with only one spare engine.

-2-

Staff Notes: Military Developments are prepared for the internal use of CIA and reflect the immediate views of analysts in the Office of Strategic Research. Observations and queries may be directed to the analyst named following each item.

Two of the aircraft were involved in the flight test program; one was used for engine tests and one for airframe and performance tests.

Saab officials reportedly said in June that the new Viggen turbofan engine program was doing well, but in some respects the engine was not doing as well in flight tests as it had in altitude chamber work. Engine modifications had already delayed the flight test program by three months, but Saab officials did not believe that the extra work would delay series production which is scheduled to begin in 1978. The loss of the test aircraft from engine failure probably will cause further engine modifications, however, and this could result in a delay in series production.

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-3-

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